

HB0231 YPP Testimony March 2022 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Reinhard

Position: FAV

HB0231 - SUPPORT

Joseph Reinhard

Young People for Progress (YPP)

jpreinhard03@gmail.com/440.251.1382

HB0231 - SUPPORT

My name is Joe Reinhard, and I am writing to voice support for HB0231 on behalf of Montgomery County's Young People for Progress (YPP). We are a community organizing and social justice organization of young people in Montgomery County that strives to create power among youth and young adults. Over the past year, YPP has focused on bringing systemic changes to policing in Montgomery County. We are very pleased to support HB0231 as a good first step to making some of those changes to the way we view policing in the county and state.

As a community, we have asked too much of police over the past few decades and burdened them with too many responsibilities outside their core duties. Modern police and police departments are responsible for an ever-increasing number of government functions and services that have nothing to do with crime. This pushes police and police departments to be generalists because they are responsible for more, often unrelated, government functions. Allowing other departments to take more responsibility for services around issues in which they specialize will give the public more effective service and support. To paraphrase Councilmember Evan Glass, the Department of Health handles health violations and the Department of Housing handles housing violations; why should this be different with transportation violations? Dangerous driving is a plague on our streets, and just like we would not ask police to handle a literal plague, we should not have police officers responsible for street safety. By asking an organization whose responsibility is street safety to handle automated traffic enforcement, we allow the police to focus on more important matters to police while our Department of Transportation handles tasks they are better equipped for in the long term.

We see this bill as beneficial to the police as well. And while we acknowledge that this bill does not reduce the racial disparities we see in MCPD police stops nor reduce the number of traffic stops, it does ultimately start to unburden the police and allow them to focus more exclusively on serious crime. In these increasingly tense times, we need police to focus on fighting violent and serious crime while we ask other departments to look to take on more responsibility. Passage of HB0231 to move automated traffic enforcement to MCDOT is an important step to unbundle policing and have more effective traffic safety in Montgomery County.

Thank you.

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Thank you.

MD HB 231 - Automated Traffic Enforcement - Implem

Uploaded by: Peter Gray

Position: FAV



Judicial Proceedings Committee
William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair

2 East
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 231 - Automated Traffic Enforcement - Implementing Agency

March 23, 2022

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Gray and I represent the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. I am speaking on behalf of the 2000+ WABA members and several thousands of other supporters who live in Maryland.

We urge you to support HB 231, which would authorize Montgomery County to move oversight of automated traffic enforcement from the Montgomery County Police Department to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Automated enforcement is already a great tool to objectively enforce traffic laws without biases, and allowing MCDOT to implement speed and traffic monitoring systems can further move traffic enforcement into civilian hands. Moreover, as such enforcement actions are a significant tool in achieving the County's Vision Zero goals, it is far more efficient to have this enforcement managed by the same agency, MCDOT, that is charged with implementing the County Vision Zero Program.

In addition, according to data in Montgomery County's office of oversight report¹ and an analysis of County data², black and brown residents are disproportionately likely to be pulled over, receive a citation, and to have police force used against them during a traffic stop. This does not result in safer streets – rather, the opposite. This stokes distrust among community members and law enforcement. HB 231 is one step in the right direction to take policing out of traffic enforcement and focus more on automated systems, safe design, and preventative actions to reduce traffic violations and eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities.

¹ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2020%20Reports/OLORReport2020-9.pdf>

² <https://public.tableau.com/profile/jpreinhard#!/vizhome/MOCOTrafficData/TrafficDataStory?publish=yes>

Therefore, we urge you to support HB 231. Thank you.

Testimony Support HB 231 - RL for SSJC 3-22-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Landau

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of HB 231
By Robert Landau for Silver Spring Justice Coalition

806 Gatestone St., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RLandau806@gmail.com; 301.938.9850

My name is Robert Landau, and I live in Gaithersburg. This testimony is provided in support of HB 231 on behalf of the Silver Spring Justice Coalition. SSJC is a coalition of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County. We envision a state and county where community and individual needs for safety are met while harm by police is eliminated.

HB 231 will allow Montgomery County to move its automated traffic enforcement from the Montgomery County Police to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

For two years in a row, both the County Executive and the County Council have unanimously supported passage of this authorizing legislation. As you well know, the Montgomery County Delegation has voted its unanimous support for this bill.

We urge your support for this bill because it will:

- Give traffic cameras greater credibility across Montgomery County by moving its administration to the MC-Department of Transportation – **IF** the County authorizes this permitted transfer of duties.
- Allow Montgomery County to move the bureaucratic aspects of ticket writing for traffic camera violations to the MC-DOT, while freeing up valuable police resources for more core operations.
- Allow the MC-DOT to have more immediate access to traffic data that will support their role in the Montgomery County Vision Zero campaign.
- Provide an important aspect of local control to county residents and leaders.

The bill will not change the criteria for citations nor the basis for locating traffic cameras.

We urge your favorable report on HB 231.

Senator William C Smith - Letter HB 231 MC 18-22 -

Uploaded by: Barbara Zektick

Position: FWA



March 22, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support with Amendments for HB 231, Montgomery County - Automated Traffic Enforcement -
Implementing Agency MC 18-22

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg support House Bill 231 with amendments.

House Bill 231 appears intended to enable Montgomery County to authorize its Department of Transportation to oversee its automated enforcement programs, including its speed camera program. The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg have no objections to this.

However, the bill includes language throughout its text which states that "in Montgomery County," the Montgomery County Department of Transportation may oversee the program under contemplation if authorized to do so by the County's Executive and Council.

The City of Gaithersburg's Police Department proudly oversees our own speed camera program and we wish for it to continue to do so, notwithstanding its location within Montgomery County. As such, we respectfully request this Committee consider amending this language to clarify that it explicitly applies to the County's own automated enforcement programs, and not also those automated enforcement programs which happen to be located within the County but run by its municipalities.

If we are correct in our understanding of this bill's intent, then we respectfully request that this committee grant it a favorable with amendments report, with the amendments requested herein.

Respectfully,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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